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Cont'd

delivery apparatus including at least one delivery tube assembly interconnected with the intermediate hopper, and mechanism for controlling the flow rate of the granular mold flux through the delivery tube assembly. In the first two embodiments the flow rate control mechanism is a variable diameter pinch valve located between the intermediate hopper and the delivery tube assembly. In the third and fourth embodiments the flow rate control mechanism is an air pump and a mechanism for varying the air volume through the air pump so that the granular mold flux delivered is a function of the air volume of the air pump.

#### REMARKS

This application is a continuation-in-part of applicants' prior application US Ser. No. 09/154,556 as can be seen from the declaration, as well as from the amendment set forth above to the text of this application.

The description has been amended in the manner suggested by the examiner, although the phrase "slowing up" has been retained. In addition, the abstract has been amended to delete "means", and the specification has been amended accordingly to provide support for --delivery apparatus--.

The examiner has apparently not understood FIG. 9 of the drawing. However, the passage 76.3 has a ring like configuration, which annular passageway is in communication with orifices

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